

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 01580 061628Z
ACTION AF-10

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FM AMZMBASSY LUSAKA
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FOR IOP/M

FOR IBS/PA, PASS IPS

NAIROBI FOR VOA CHANCELLOR

STATE FOR AF/E AND AF/YO

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJ: NDABANINGI SITHOLE PRESS CONFERENCE IN LUSAKA, JUNE 6

RHODESIAN NATIONALIST LEADER, REVERENED NDABWNINGP SITHOLE,
HAS ONCE AGAIN CONDEMNED THE DECISION OF THE FIVE FRONTLINE
STATES TO RECOGNIZE ONLY THE PATRIOTIC FRONT ALLIANCE OF
HIS TWO POLITICAL RIVALS, MR. JOSHUA NKOMO AND MR. ROBERT
MUGABE.

ADDRESSING A PRESS CONFERENCE HERE TODAY, MR. SITHOLE, WHO
LEADS A FACTION OF THE ZIMBABWE AFRICAN NATIONAL UNION
(ZANU), SAID HZ INTENDS TO PUT HIS FACTION'S CASE "VERY
STRONGLY" WT BOTH THE OAU SUMMIT MEETING IN GABON AND AT THE
OAU LIBERATION COMMITTEE MEETING IN LUANDA LATER THIS
MONTH.

HE SAID: "I WANT THEM TO KNOW THAT ZIMBABWE IS NOT A
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COLONY OF THE FRONTLINE STATES, NOR OF THE OAU. I WANT
THEM TO BE QUITE OPEN THAT THEY SUPPORT ALL THE GENUINE
LIBERATION MOVEMENTS OF ZIMBABWE, AND THAT THE PATRIOTIC
FRONT IS NOT THE CENTER OF THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE IN ZIMBABWE."

HE TOLD THE PRESS CONFERENCE, HHeld AT LUSAKA'S INTERNCONTINENTAL
HOTEL WHERE HZ IS STAYING, THAT THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE ARE

"VERY RESENTFUL" OF THE DECISION BY ZAMBIA, MOZAMBIQUE, ANGOLA, TANZANIA AND BOTSWANA, HAND SO "IS THE MAJORITY OF INDEPENDENT AFRICAN STATES."

"IT IS VERY IMMORAL, AS FAR AS I AM CONCERNED, IT IS EVIL, FOR ANY COUNTRY TO TRY TO PRE-DETERMINE THE LEADERSHIP OF ANY OTHER COUNTRY. LEADERS ARE BORN FROM WITHIN, NOT FROM WITHOUT," HE SAID.

THE RHODESIAN NATIONALIST ALSO ALLEGED THAT HE WAS UNABLE TO VISIT ANY GUERRILLA BASES BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE RHODESIA BECAUSE OF A "CONCERTED EFFORT" BY SOME FRONTLINE STATES HE DID NOT NAME WHICH HE SAID WERE TRYING TO ALIENATE HIM FROM THE FIGHTING FORCES. BUT HE SAID HE WAS STILL ABLE TO KEEP PACE WITH WHAT IS GOING ON THROUGH HIS FIELD COMMANDERS BY USING "OTHER MEANS."

MR. SITHOLE SAID HIS FACTION IS IN FULL CONTROL OF THE ZANU GUERRILLA ARMY, AND NOT MR. MUGABE, WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS "JUST A REBEL WITHOUT ANY MILITARY OR POLITICAL BASE."

BUT HE SAID MR. MUGABE "HAS BEEN VERY CLEVER TO MANIPULATE THE FRONTLINE STATES SO THAT THEY HAVE BEEN TAKEN FOR A RIDE". HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE RHODESIAN ISSUE WILL NOT BE DECIDED IN LUSAKA OR ANY OF THE CAPITALS OF THE FRONTLINE STATES, BUT INSIDE RHODESIA ITSELF.

HE COULD NOT PREDICT HOW CLOSE VICTORY IS IN THE STRUGGLE FOR RHODESIA'S INDEPENDENCE, BECAUSE, HE CLAIMED, THE FREEDOM

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FIGHTERS WERE NOT ONLY FIGHTING RHODESIAN FORCES, BUT WERE "UP AGAINST MERCENARIES FROM SOUTH AFRICA, THE UNITED STATES, BRITAIN, WEST GERMANY AND FRANCE."

HE SAID AS THE RHODESIANS BECOME MORE AND MORE DESPERATE THEY CALL IN MERCENARIES FROM OUTSIDE, ADDING THAT HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THAT MILITARY FACTOR, THE GOVERNMENT OF MR. SMITH WOULD HAVE LONG FALLEN. ITEM USIS LUSAKA. BURNS

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